D-161 Thomas Byrn House Vienna c. 1820 Private

The Thomas Byrn house, also known more recently as the Piercy house or Gibbons house, stands out in Vienna as part of a small collection of early nineteenth century dwellings that constitute the oldest surviving buildings in the river-front town. This two-story, three-bay, single-pile frame structure shares similar features with other houses, such flush gable ends, exterior common bond brick chimneys, and an attached service wing.

The earliest land record associated with this corner lot is a 1793 patent from the State of Maryland to John Maguire. The property was described as being on the northwest side of High Street in the town of Vienna. While a patent record associated with this lot dates to the late eighteenth century, the architectural finishes of this two-story, three-bay frame dwelling clearly date to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. There is a gap in the land record chain of ownership between John Maguire's patent and that of John Ennalls of Baltimore City, who in March 1831, is recorded as the grantor in a deed conveying the property to Thomas Byrn, of Dorchester County, for the sum of \$1,100. The significant transfer price indicates that the extant two-story dwelling was standing on the lot at that time. The next land record associated with the house and lot was recorded in April 1857 when William T. Byrn, Thomas's son and a resident of Baltimore City as well, transfers the property to Richard Piercy, who, it is stated in the deed, presently occupied the house. Piercy (also Percy) family ownership lasted through the mid to late nineteenth century with the title passing to William R. Percy. Caroline E.

Percy is recorded in the Dorchester County land records in an 1885 conveyance between herself and Thomas and James A. Higgins. During the second half of the twentieth century the property was the long-time residence of Malcolm Lee and Althea O'Day Gibbons.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Pro	-	D 11				
historic	Thon	nas Byrn House				
other	Piercy	House, Gibbons House				
2. Location						
street and number	125 M	iddle Street				not for publication
city, town Vienna		a			vic	inity
county	Dorch	nester				
3. Owner of Pro	operty	(give names and mailing	g addres	ses of all owner		Ju -
name	Lesle	e W. Levin				
street and number	P.O.	Box 121		telep	hone	
city, town	Vienn	a	state	MD	zip code	21869
4 Location of	l anal D	occrintion				
4. Location of	Legal D	escription				
courthouse, registry of c	deeds, etc.	Dorchester County Cle	rk of Co	ourt liber	MLB 686	folio 470
courthouse, registry of c		Dorchester County Cle Cambridge		ourt liber 500 parcel 143	The second secon	folio 470 aber 040305
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### 7. Description

Inventory No. D-161

#### Condition

	_ excellent	deteriorated
X	_ good	ruins
_	_ fair	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

#### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Thomas Byrn house, also known as the Piercy house, stands at 125 Middle Street, which is the northeast corner of the intersection of Church and Middle streets, in the river-front town of Vienna, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay, single-pile frame house and service wing, built during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, faces southeast with the gable roofs oriented on a northeast/southwest axis. Supported on an infilled brick pier foundation, the exterior is clad with vinyl siding, and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Dominating the southwest gable end of the house is an exterior, common bond brick chimney stack finished with corbelled shoulders at the second floor level. All of the window sash have been replaced. Attached to the northeast gable end is a story-and-a-half service wing that partially covers a second exterior brick chimney stack that rises against the northeast gable end of the main block. The interior was not open for inspection.

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Thomas Byrn house, located at 125 Middle Street, is also known as the Piercy house, and it stands on the northeast corner of the intersection of Church and Middle streets in the center of Vienna, Dorchester County, Maryland. Built during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, c. 1820, the two-story, three-bay, single-pile main block is supported on an infilled brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. A steeply pitched gable roof on the main block is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the northeast gable end of the main block is a story-and-a-half service wing that was built at the same time as the main house.

The southeast elevation of the main block is an asymmetrical three-bay façade with entrances marking the center and north bay. The center entrance is fitted with a replacement door, and a gable roofed porch roof is supported by decorative iron columns. A secondary front entrance to the north is sheltered by a gable-roofed hood supported on stick brackets. To the south of the main entrance is a replacement six-over-six sash window flanked by louvered vinyl shutters. The second story is lighted by three six-over-six sash windows flanked with vinyl louvered shutters. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice covered with vinyl.

The southwest gable end that faces Church Street is dominated by the exterior five-course common bond brick chimney stack. It is finished with a corbelled base and corbelled shoulders at the second floor level. To each side of the chimney stack are replacement six-over-six sash windows flanked by vinyl shutters. Piercing the gable end are small louvered vents. The edge of the roof is finished flush with the bargeboard covered with vinyl as well.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Thomas Byrn House (Piercy House)
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The northwest (rear) wall is pierced by a pair of six-over-six replacement windows in the outer bays, and each opening is flanked by vinyl louvered shutters, and the second floor is defined by three six-over-six sash windows of smaller dimension.

The northeast gable end of the main block is largely covered by the story-and-a-half service wing, which covers a large portion of the exterior brick chimney stack that rises above the roof and is finished with a corbelled cap. On the southeast side of the service wing, the wall elevation is defined by a pair of small six-over-six sash windows on the north side, whereas the south side is pierced by a paired set of six-over-six sash windows. Attached to the back (northwest) side of the kitchen wing is a single-story shed roofed addition.

The interior was not open for inspection.

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and ju	stify below	
1600-1699 1700-1799 x 1800-1899 1900-1999 2000-	agriculture archeology x architecture art commerce communications community planning conservation	<ul> <li>economics</li> <li>education</li> <li>engineering</li> <li>entertainment/</li> <li>recreation</li> <li>ethnic heritage</li> <li>exploration/</li> <li>settlement</li> </ul>	health/medicine industry invention landscape architecture law literature maritime history military	performing arts philosophy politics/government religion science social history transportation other:
Specific dates			Architect/Builder	
Construction da	ites	3		
Evaluation for:				
	National Register	M	laryland Register	xnot evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

#### SIGNFICANCE SUMMARY

The Thomas Byrn house, also known as the Piercy or Gibbons house, stands out in Vienna as part of a small collection of early nineteenth century dwellings that constitute the oldest surviving buildings in the river-front town. This two-story, three-bay, single-pile frame structure shares similar features with other houses such as flush gable ends, exterior common bond brick chimneys, and an attached service wing.

#### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The earliest land record associated with this corner lot is a 1793 patent from the State of Maryland to John Maguire. The property was described as being on the northwest side of High Street in the town of Vienna. While a patent record associated with this corner lot dates from the late eighteenth century, the architectural finishes of this two-story, three-bay frame house dwelling date to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. There is a gap in the land record ownership between John Maguire's ownership and that of John Ennalls of Baltimore City, who, in March 1831, is recorded as the grantor in a deed conveying the property to Thomas Byrn, of Dorchester County, for the sum of \$1,100.<sup>2</sup> The significant transfer price indicates that the extant two-story house was standing on the lot at that time. The next land record associated with the house and lot was recorded in April 1857 when William T. Byrn, Thomas's son and a resident of Baltimore as well, transferred the property to Richard Piercy, who, it is stated in the deed, presently occupied the house. Piercy (also Percy) family ownership lasted through the mid to late nineteenth century with the title passing to William R. Percy. Caroline E. Percy is recorded in the Dorchester County land records in an 1885 conveyance between herself and Thomas

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, ER 12/352, 26 March 1831, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, FJH 3/682, 2 April 1857, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Thomas Byrn House, aka Piercy House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

and James A. Higgins. During the second half of the twentieth century the property was the long-time residence of Malcolm Lee and Althea O'Day Gibbons. 5

Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.

Dorchester County Land Record, CL 7/110, 19 February 1885, Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland.
 Dorchester County Land Records, RSM 66/584, 10 August 1948; 554/247, 26 November 2003, Dorchester County

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-161

Name Thomas Byrn House, aka Piercy House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Thomas Byrn House 125 Middle Street Vienna, Dorchester County, Maryland Map 500, Parcel 143

MLB 686/470

Steven E. Levin and Leslee W. Levin

to

10.20.2005

Leslee W. Levin

669/514

Richard B. Olenick and Michelle L. Olenick

to

8.4.2005

Steven E. Levin and Leslee W. Levin

554/247

William D. Gang, Verthea Ann Franz, Robert Lee Gibbons

to

11.26.2003

Richard B. Olenick and Michelle L. Olenick

\$116,900

(Althea O'Day Gibbons having died 2.5.2003)

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-161

Name Thomas Byrn House, aka Piercy House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

315/576

Althea O'Day Gibbons

to

8.8.1994

Althea O'Day Gibbons, life estate, thereafter to William D. Gang, Verthea Ann Franz, and Robert Lee Gibbons (death of Malcolm Gibbons on 7.13.1994)

RSM 66/584

James A. Outten and Anna B. Outten

to

8.10.1948

Malcolm Lee Gibbons and Althea O'Day Gibbons

JFD 16/79

John D. Bradley and Ella Bradley

to

2.16.1925

James A. Outten

WHM.8/84

Lena M. Morris and others (L. Milton Morris, W. Irving Mace)

to

1.31.1920

John D. Bradley

\$900

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-161

Name Thomas Byrn House, aka Piercy House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

WLR 8/287

James A. Higgins and Alice L. Higgins

to

12.12.1914

Lena M. Morris

\$1,000

CL 7/110

Caroline E. Percy

to

2.19.1885

Thomas Higgins and James A. Higgins

FJH 13/309

William R. Percy (Piercy)

to

6.16.1879

Caroline E. Percy

\$950 (William R. Piercy inherited property from his father Richard Piercy)

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Thomas Byrn House, aka Piercy House Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 5

FJH 3/682

William T. Byrn, Baltimore

to

4.2.1857

Richard Piercy

...all that house and lot situate lying and being in the town of Vienna....1/2 acre and at present in the occupancy of Richard Piercy, being the same house and lot that Thomas Byrn, the father of William T. Byrn purchased from John Ennals...

ER 12/352

John Ennalls, Baltimore City

to

3.26.1831

Thomas Byrn, Dorchester County

NW side of High Street...it being a lott of ground conveyed by a patent of the State of Maryland to John Maguire bearing date 6.5.1793

\$1,100.





Groceries, Hats, Caps, Queensware, &c., and al kept in a first class count OLIVER S. RYSSARI Contractor and try done with taken at all tim

JESSE C. RICHARDS

tractor and Builder. A

done with neatness and

at all times. T. A. WILLIS, Dealer Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoe
Country Produce taken i
at Williams' Read near
POWBLL & NETTLE
Mill on "Big Blackwal
cut to order. Custom w

done.
THOMAS KING CA
Surgeon, All calls pr
in Church Creek.
W. A. VANE, Ship Carp

#### VIENNA BUSINESS REFERENCES.

VIENNA BUSINESS REFERENCES.

HITCH & BRO'S., Practical Carriage and Harness makers. Manufacturers of all kinds of Carriage work. We have on hand a good stock of Carriages of our own manufacture. We do Trimming, Repairing, Painting, and all kinds of Carriage work. Shop on Race street.

C. B. BOBTON, Wheelwright and Undertaker. Wheelwrighting in all its Branches. I Manufacture from the Lightest Buggy to Road Wagons, Repairing done and Solicited, also Undertaking in all its Branches. Shop on Race street.

THOMAS HIGGINS & SON, Merchants and Millers, General Dealers in all kinds of Merchandise, Meal and Flour, Lumber of all kinds, Flooring, Peach and Grape Boxes.

DR. S. E. EWBEL, Physician and Surgeon, will Practice in Dorrchester and Wicomico counties, Md. All calls promptly attended to Day and Night. Office on Race street.

DR. EUGHNE HODEON, Physician and Surgeon.

J. H. VANB, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Willow and Woodenware, Toilet Soaps, Fancy Articles, Drugs, Medicines, Notions, &c. Country Produce of all kinds taken in exchange for goods. Store at Linkwood Station.

V. H.. JONES, Dealt Hats, Caps, Boots, S Wooden and Willow Articles, Druga, Med Produce taken in ex Linkwood Station.

SHERMANN & BE er "Anna Ellen," pi timore. A General

GEORGE A. HARR done in all its Bran

done in all its Bran
Horse-Shoeing a S
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in Church
J. S. VINO
and Express rigent,
in my line will rece
will find me at all
Station.

W. H. PHILLIPS, in all its Branches, wrighting done to o thing in my line wi Work done reasona

D-161, Thomas Byrn House Lake, Griffing, & Stevenson Atla 1877

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-161

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property
Acreage of historical setting
Quadrangle name

9,500 square feet

½ acre

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

#### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

### 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	10/14/2010
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust DHCD/DHCP 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032-2023 410-514-7600

# **NITED STATES** OF THE INTERIOR ICAL SURVEY \*25000mE 50' Rabbit Town RIVER Branch Pond Ramp BM 2.2 Ferry Point **©Light** STEELS Tidal i Flat Redfin /oLight MANAGEMENT AREA D-161, Thomas Byrn House Mardela Springs, MD Quadrangle ///// Tidal Flat Butlers Beach Kraft Neg /Tidal Round Island



7-161 Turnos Byan ItomsE VIENNA, DORCHESTER G. NE Sourmest ELEVATION 10.2010, JANE B. TOWART, PITOTU. NET. I MD Historian Trust

### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

# NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

	Malcolm Gibbon					
2.	LOCATION					
	STREET AND NUMBER:					
	Middle Street	at Church	Street			
	Standard Co.					
	Vienna			COUNTY:		
	Maryland		1	Dorche	ester	
3.	CLASSIFICATION			DO1 0110		
References	CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLI
	☐ District ☑ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	Public Private Both	Public Acquisition In Proce		<ul> <li>Occupied</li> <li>Unoccupied</li> <li>Preservation work</li> <li>in progress</li> </ul>	Yes: Restricted Unrestricted No
	PRESENT USE (Check One or A	More as Appropriate)				
	Commercial Ir		Park Private Residen Religious Scientific	ice [	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify)	Comments
4.	OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME: Malcolm I Gib	hons	1			
4.		bons				
4.	Malcolm L. Gib	bons		STATE:		
Second	Malcolm L. Gib street and number:  City or town: Vienna			210000	ryland	21869
Second	Malcolm L. Gib	CRIPTION		210000	ryland	21869
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☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab			
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che		ate)	
Aboriginal	☐ Education	☐ Political	Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	Engineering	Religion/Phi-	Other (Specify)
Historic	☐ Industry	losophy	
☐ Agriculture	_ Invention	☐ Science	
Architecture	☐ Landscape	☐ Sculpture	
☐ Art	Architecture	Social/Human-	
Commerce	☐ Literature	itarian	
☐ Communications	☐ Military	☐ Theater	
Conservation	☐ Music	☐ Transportation	
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Marine Commission of the Commi	RAPHICAL		DE COORDINATES	1	LATITUDE AND LONG	ITUDE COORDINA	TES
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NAME A	PREPAR						
		Bourne,	Architectural	C	consultant	DATE	
ORGANI		Histori	cal Trust			Summer,	1972
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVE

INVENTORY

D-161

COUNTY

415 JUSTATE Maryland

ORIGINAL USE

PRESENT USE

PRESENT OWNER

Dorchester TOWN Vienna

VICINITY STREET NO. Middle St at Chumch

2. NAME

ORIGINAL OWNER

dwelling

dwelling

DATE OR PERIOD

early 19th cent.

STYLE

Federal

ARCHITECT

BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

frame

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Although the fenestration has been changed, the house on the corner of middle and church streets resembles the back of the Percy LeCompte House, being three bays long with central door. It also has exterior chimneys and a 1! story kitchen wing. It is typical of Dorchester County's Federal houses of the first quarter of the 19th century.

Exterior 5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior fair



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

3. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael Bourne Maryland Historical Trust

DATE OF RECORD

Summer, 1972

2011-62 50% D-160

D- 161

Malcolm C. bbons House

Pearcy's Punchase

MiBourne Summer 1922